

Kit-House Identification Methods

To determine if your house is a kit-house you can use these steps as a guide:

- The best way to start is by looking at the structural members in your basement or attic. Often, each piece of framing lumber was stamped with the company's name or logo and a number used for assembling the house on the site. Identification information may also be found on finished materials and fixtures such as kitchen cabinets, access doors, staircases, trim and windows.



- Another way of researching your home is to talk with your neighbors. It is common for long time residents to remember houses being delivered, or stories of kit-houses being built many years ago.
- Check with the local railroad. Because kit-houses were distributed around the country by rail, the railroad companies are an excellent source of information. If records exist, it is possible that your house may be listed among the shipping records at the station where your house was unloaded.
- Lastly, you may do a deed search. It was common for companies distributing kit-houses, such as Sears or Montgomery Wards, to hold mortgages on such houses. If so, these mortgages may be listed in your homes deed history.

If you suspect that your house may be a kit house, please contact Ken Guzowski at ken.j.guzowski@ci.eugene.or.us or directly at 682-5562.